



**Date:** August 6, 2012

**To:** Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager  
**Through:** Wanda Page, Deputy City Manager  
**From:** Rhonda B. Parker, Director, Parks and Recreation  
**Subject:** Acceptance of 2012 USTA Facility Grant for Southern Boundaries Park

**Executive Summary**

In August 2012, the United States Tennis Association (USTA) awarded a facility grant to the City of Durham Parks and Recreation Department. The grant of \$15,000.00 will assist with funding for the renovation of the eight (8) tennis courts at Southern Boundaries Park.

The Carolina Panthers Charities has awarded Durham Parks and Recreation (DPR) a grant of \$3,056. The grant award is the continuation and expansion of a Challenger Flag Football League in Durham. This league was established in 2010 with funding from the Carolina Panthers Charities. There is no match required for the acceptance of this grant. The Durham Challenger Flag Football program will serve approximately 35 athletes with disabilities

**Recommendation**

The Administration recommends that the City Council adopt an ordinance amending the General Capital Improvement Project Ordinance, FY 2012-13, as amended, the same being Ordinance #14286 for the purpose of appropriating the 2012 United States Tennis Association Facility Grant of \$15,000.00, and adopt a resolution accepting the grant and authorizing the City Manager to execute the grant agreement.

The Administration also recommends that the City Council authorize the City Manager to accept the 2012 Carolina Panthers Charities Grant of \$3,056 and adopt a resolution accepting the grant and authorizing the City Manager to execute the grant agreement.

**Background**

Durham Parks and Recreation (DPR) began the USTA Facility Grant application process in early 2011 and was invited to submit a formal application for funding for the Southern Boundaries renovation in June, 2012. Funding from the USTA will supplement previously appropriated funding for tennis court renovations allowing the City to apply savings to additional projects.

DPR has a growing tennis program and is quickly becoming a popular location for regional tournaments. Registration in both adult and junior tennis has increased for the past several years by more than 10%. DPR began offering QuickStart Tennis for children ages 5-8 in the early spring of 2011. The Quick Start program is very popular and in high demand. In September 2011 DPR hosted the USTA-sanctioned North Carolina Tennis Association's

Mixed Doubles Tournament. This four-day event included 1200 athletes and approximately 4,000 spectators visiting Durham. DPR will host this tournament again in September, 2012.

DPR intends to increase the number of tournament opportunities it offers to the region. In order to accomplish this goal, DPR needs to renovate its facilities not only to make them more aesthetically pleasing but also to return them to a top level of safety. The Southern Boundaries Tennis Facility was constructed in 1973 and last resurfaced in 1998. The Southern Boundaries facility is heavily used throughout the year. The City of Durham is currently in the process of a full renovation of the Southern Boundaries Tennis Facility, including a sub-base, new asphalt surface course and color coating, new sleeves and net posts, and new perimeter black vinyl coated chain link fencing. The renovation will also include improvements in ADA compliance. Color coating will include Quick Start lines allowing this new program to expand. We are using a "green" surfacing method that entails grinding up the old asphalt surface in place, then compacting it and using it for the new sub-base; thus no material has to be taken off-site to the landfill.

In June of 2012, Durham Parks and Recreation submitted an application to the Carolina Panthers Charities for funding to continue an athletic program for persons with disabilities established in 2010. The funding will be used to continue offering a Challenger Flag Football League in Durham, and to add a Cheerleading program. The Carolina Panthers have played a significant role advocating for the development of flag football programs for persons with disabilities. DPR offers a four (4) team league, with 8-10 players per team. The program takes place at the Old Chapel Hill Road Park. The balance of the 2012 grant funds will be used to provide uniforms, contract officials and fund travel expenditures for the athletes to play in other communities as well as go to a football game.

### **Issues/Analysis**

Expenditures for the Southern Boundaries project are to be reimbursed up to the \$15,000.00 award amount. That amount will supplement the existing re-surfacing project budget so that more work can be done on other tennis courts in the City system.

This opportunity will enhance DPR's services to those athletes in our community who may not otherwise be able to learn and participate in the sport of flag football. The grant funding will cover all expenditures required for the program to be offered.

### **Alternatives**

The City Council could choose not to adopt the proposed grant project ordinance; DPR would not accept the grant from USTA for the renovation of the tennis facilities at Southern Boundaries Park.

The City Council could choose not to adopt the proposed grant project ordinance; DPR would not accept the grant from the Carolina Panthers Charities for the continuation of a Challenger Flag Football League in Durham.

### **Financial Impact**

The USTA grant for \$15,000.00 and the Carolina Panthers Grant for \$3,056.00 do not require any match. There is no known negative financial impact to receiving this grant.

**Attachments:**

General Capital Improvement Project Ordinance amendment

Grant project resolution United States Tennis Association

Grant Project Ordinance for the 2012 Carolina Panthers Charities grant

Award letter from United States Tennis Association.

Award letter from Carolina Panthers Charities